

Saltwater Wetlands Conservation and Management Plan for St. Croix, USVI

Restoration Plan Database: Crystal Reports of Individual Plan Summaries

I. BASIC PLAN DATA

Plan name:

Saltwater Wetlands Conservation and Management Plan for St. Croix, USVI

Brief description of plan:

This plan applies to the island of St. Croix and specifically to the saltwater wetlands, which are defined as an area inundated with water for at least 14 days a year, adjacent areas with salt tolerant wetland vegetation and beach berm separating wetland from the sea. Saltwater wetlands on St. Croix include bays, estuaries, lagoons, salt ponds, and the mouth of guts (streams that drain watersheds) that are lined with mangroves. The plan addresses managing to conserve the habitats and resources, managing human activities that impact the habitat and the processes, managing human activities that negatively impact the saltwater wetlands, and strategies to enhance nesting habitat for some species and to restore degraded habitats.

Region the plan is located within:

South-Atlantic Region

Watershed(s) included within the plan:

VI

Area plan covers (in square miles):

square miles

Plan scale:

County

Plan's lead organization(s):

Division of Fish and Wildlife

Plan's Main Contact Information:

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On-line version of plan:

Date of original plan:

No Information Provided

II. TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Plan includes restoration goals: Y

Level of detail of the goals:

G

Summary of the goals:

The two umbrella goals are 'no net loss' and long-term net gain. The 'no net loss' plan must protect all extant saltwater wetlands. The first objective is to ensure that development in adjacent uplands does not impact the wetlands by changing the flow pattern and the amount of water reaching the wetlands. For the goal of long-term net gain, the plan encompasses restoring existing degraded wetlands. The objective is to identify degraded wetlands, determine the reason for function loss, and to restore the functions.

Plan recommends or uses criteria for selecting restoration sites (e.g. cost benefit ratio, ecological benefits):

Y

Summary of the criteria:

To determine the priority list, the use indices developed in Knowles 1996 were used to determine the importance to wildlife. The results of the fisheries habitat studies were used to determine the importance of the wetlands as fishery nurseries. The two were combined to develop the overall importance of each wetland.

Plan recommends restoration of specific project sites:

Y

Plan includes a discussion of funding sources:

Y

Plan addresses long-term protection of restored sites:

Y

Partners included in developing the plan:

Federal
State
Port Authorities/Commissions
Private landowners

Type(s) of public outreach included during plan development:

Plan includes public outreach as part of plan implementation (e.g. annual public meeting, local group participation):

Y

Plan discusses the application of innovative approaches to restoration:

N

Plan make use of GIS mapping capabilities:

N

Plan addresses monitoring/reference sites for ecosystem level monitoring (baseline conditions) by:

N

Plan addresses monitoring/reference sites for project level monitoring by:

N

The plan discusses or coordinates with other restoration plans covering the same geographic area:

N

Other plan names:

Plan contains detailed information on historic and/or current habitat size, rate of loss, acres restored or protected, etc.):

Y

Summary of this habitat information:

This plan is directed at saltwater wetlands, which are defined as areas inundated with water for at least 14 days a year, adjacent areas with salt tolerant wetland vegetation, and beach berm separating wetland from the sea. Dominant wetland vegetation includes four species of mangroves. Saltwater wetlands on St. Croix include bays, estuaries, lagoons, salt ponds and the mouth of guts that are lined with mangroves. These areas are also special aquatic sites. The wetlands do not have nor can they produce resources that can be extracted substantially at economically viable levels. There is limited acreage of flat undeveloped coastal area suitable for creation of saltwater wetlands, and this property is expensive.